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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE GLOBAL
CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND
DEVELOPING STATES
Organizational session
15 and 16 April 1993
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

Draft provisional agenda for the first session of the Preparatory Committee

Proposal submitted by the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China

A. Draft provisional agenda

Item 1. Overview of the special problems of small island developing States:

(a) Current trends in the socio-economic development of small island developing States;

(b) Nature and magnitude of specific vulnerabilities of small island developing States, including specific indicators of vulnerability;

(c) Prospects, constraints and further options for sustainable development.

Methodology

Much of this can be drawn from existing reports and agreed resolutions already within the United Nations system.

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* A/CONF.167/PC/1.

Item 2. Priority areas for the sustainable development of small island developing States

Part I. Management of environmental problems of small island developing States

(a) Climate change and sea-level rise, including coral bleaching and tropical storms;

(b) Natural and environmental disaster preparedness, including early warning systems, disaster relief mechanisms and storm resistant construction;

(c) Management of waste.

Part II. Management of the resources of small island developing States

(a) Coastal and marine resources;

(b) Freshwater resources;

(c) Land resources, including sustainable agriculture and forestry;

(d) Energy resources;

(e) Tourism resources;

(f) Biodiversity resources.

Part III. Capacity-building in small island developing States

(a) National institutions and administrative capacity;

(b) Regional institutions and technical cooperation;

(c) Regional transport and communication systems;

(d) Science and technology;

(e) Human resource development, including education, training, health and population.

Methodology

Each question under agenda item 2 is to be addressed in terms of the following:

1. Specific problems for small island developing States:

   To be addressed at the micro level in relation to each priority area, rather than at the macro level, as under agenda item 1.

2. Responsibilities of small island developing States:

   (a) Actions and policies required for environment and development planning, including economic and environmental policy, resource management, legislative framework and endogenous institutions;

   (b) Elements for inclusion in medium- and long-term sustainable development plans and response strategies;

   (c) Measures for enhancing endogenous capacity-building.

3. Responsibilities of regional organizations:

   (a) Development of regional approaches to sustainable development/environmental problems;

   (b) Technical cooperation for endogenous capacity-building.

4. Responsibilities of the international community:

   (a) Access to financial resources for sustainable development;

   (b) Access to environmentally sound and energy efficient technology, including delivery mechanisms;

   (c) Access to resources for endogenous capacity-building.

Item 3. Implementation, monitoring and review of the recommendations emerging from agenda items 1 and 2:

(a) National implementation, including recommendations for national capacity-building;

(b) Regional implementation, including review of relevant regional institutional arrangements and, where appropriate, recommendations for improvement;

(c) International implementation:

   (i) Review of the responsiveness of international institutional arrangements to the sustainable development needs of small island developing States and, where appropriate, recommendations for improvement;

   (ii) Recommendations for monitoring and follow-up within the United Nations system.

B. Documentation

A single report of 20-25 pages should be provided for the first session of the Preparatory Committee. The report should contain sections that address each agenda item and sub-item. It should be based on:

(a) National reports submitted during the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(b) Any supplementary national reports that may be provided by Governments;

(c) Relevant reports arising out of the regional technical meetings (including input from the regional economic, financial and environmental organizations, e.g. the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, African Development Bank and South Pacific Regional Environment Programme;

(d) Relevant information provided by organizations of the United Nations system, e.g. the United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and World Meteorological Organization;

(e) Reports submitted by other intergovernmental organizations, e.g. the Commonwealth Secretariat and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme;

(f) Reports submitted by the international financial institutions;

(g) Relevant contributions from non-governmental organizations.

C. Programme of action: general approach

The Programme of Action for small island developing States should follow the framework developed in Agenda 21. It should not seek to duplicate Agenda 21 but to address its implementation in relation to small island developing States. The focus should be on the problems and needs specific to small island developing States.

The agenda for the Conference and the Preparatory Committee should be designed to accommodate the structure of the programme of action.